

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The Persatuan Buruh Minjak (PERBUM) (Oil Workers Union) controls between 15,000 and 20,000 of the oil workers in the Palembang area but only a fraction of this number are sympathetic with the Union. Control is the result of tight organization and the skilled manipulation of trained leaders, and depends at the present time on intimidation and threats. The Union hopes to complete its "hard-core" organization in the next two to four years.

2. When a strike or slow-down is called for, which occurs frequently, those workers who do not wish to cooperate are threatened with beatings. Members of the Sarekat Buruh Islam Indonesia (SBII) (Moslem Workers Labor Union) and the Organisasi Buruh Minjak (OBM) (Organization of Oil Workers) in the area often choose to work in spite of PERBUM orders and, for protection, the members meet together to counter gang threats.

3. PERBUM's strongest leader in the Palembang area is Darwis, who is approximately 35 years of age. He speaks English, Dutch and Indonesian.

4. At the Standard Vacuum Petroleum Maatschappij oil refinery in South Sumatra, an estimated 40 Indonesian Communists are employed, most of whom are known and watched. The company estimates that PERBUM will need between 750 to 1,000 such workers to secure absolute control over the workers. Sabotage has been definitely established in two recent breakdowns of the company's equipment.

5. The Standard Vacuum company has plans for hugely expanded operations and hopes to find a working solution to its difficulties with PERBUM.

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